

**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO CONSERVE THE
GENERIC NAME "BOMBINA" OKEN, 1816 (CLASS AMPHIBIA,
ORDER ANURA)**

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(Commission's reference : Z.N.(S.) 759)

The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission to take such action as may be necessary to protect the generic name *Bombina* Oken, 1816, for the genus of frogs commonly known by that name. This proposal is based on the following grounds.

2. In 1816 (*Lehrbuch Naturgesch.* (Zool.) 2 : 207) Oken established the genus *Bombina* for a genus of frogs. This genus is now considered to contain four species, two from Europe and two from East Asia. Since 1907 these species have been referred to under this generic name in numerous works, not only of a taxonomic, but also of a general zoological, character. These frogs are referred to also under this generic name in important comprehensive works in many languages, the name having been re-introduced into zoological literature by Leonhard Stejneger in his important work "Herpetology of Japan" published in 1907 (*Bull. U.S. nat. Mus.* 58 : 50). From the point of maintaining stability in the nomenclature of this group, it is important therefore that the name *Bombina* Oken should be preserved for use in its currently accepted sense. From the species included in this genus by Oken, Stejneger (1907 : 50) selected *Bufo igneus* Laurenti, 1768 (*Syn. Rept.* : 29, 129), a junior synonym of *Rana bombina* Linnaeus, 1761 (*Faun. svec.* (ed. 2) : 101).

3. Recently there has, however, been a tendency to reject generic names published by Oken in his *Lehrbuch* and at the present time the status of that work is under examination in accordance with a request addressed to the Secretary to the International Commission by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 365—366). I agree with the conclusion reached by Mr. Hemming in his Report on this subject (1954, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 9 : 193—201) that Oken did not apply the principles of binominal nomenclature in his *Lehrbuch der Naturgeschichte*. It is important therefore that the Commission should now protect the well-known generic name *Bombina* Oken.

4. The genus *Bombina* Oken, 1816, is not the type genus of a taxon belonging to any family-group and accordingly no question arises of placing any such name on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology*.

5. In the interests of stability in zoological nomenclature, I ask the International Commission :—

- (1) to preserve the generic name *Bombina* Oken, 1816, with *Rana bombina* Linnaeus, 1761, as type species, using for this purpose its Plenary Powers, if that course is found to be necessary in the light of the decision to be taken by it when the Commission comes to consider the Secretary's Report on the status of Oken's *Lehrbuch* ;
- (2) to place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—*Bombina* Oken, 1816 (gender : feminine) as conserved under (1) above (type species, by designation under (1) above : *Rana bombina* Linnaeus, 1761) ;
- (3) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—*bombina* Linnaeus, 1761, as published in the combination *Rana bombina* (specific name of type species of *Bombina* Oken, 1816).